

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An imaging system for interaction with one or more subject carried terminal devices, the one or more terminal devices including a display capable of displaying images and a communication device to enable communication therewith, the imaging system comprising:

at least one imaging means for photographing a subject carrying a terminal device and for obtaining image data representing an image of the subject;

an imaging communication means included with each associated imaging means for providing wireless data communication with to the subject carried terminal devices from the imaging communication means and for receiving wireless data communication from the subject carried terminal devices; and

a control means for controlling the operation of the imaging means so that the imaging means is driven to obtain image data when the terminal device carried by the subject and the imaging communication means become able to communicate with each other to determine the subject is within the image data to be obtained by the imaging means; and

communication range restricting means for limiting wireless data transmission from the imaging communication means and wireless data reception by the imaging communication means to be in an angular range along a direction in common with an imaging direction of the associated imaging means,

~~wherein the imaging communication means and the associated imaging means are arranged so that a data communication direction of the imaging communication means and an imaging direction of the imaging means are substantially identical; and~~

wherein the imaging communication range restricting means and the associated imaging means are arranged so that further restricts the data communication angular range of the imaging communication means is substantially within to have an angular extent that matches an imaging angle of view of the associated imaging means, and

the control means controls the imaging communication means to transmit image data representing the image of the subject obtained by the imaging means to the terminal device of the subject carrying the terminal device that is in the angular range of the communication range restricting means for display thereon.

2. (Previously presented) The imaging device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control means is a means for assigning terminal information that specifies the terminal device carried by the subject to the image data.

3. Canceled.

4. (Currently amended) The imaging device as defined in Claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein the control means is a means for generating small capacity image data of which data volume is less than the image data and transmitting the small capacity image data to the terminal device instead of the image data.

5. Canceled.

6. Canceled.

7. (Previously Presented) The imaging device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control means is a means for controlling the drive of the imaging means so that photography is prohibited after a predetermined number of images have been photographed continuously.

8. (Previously Presented) The imaging device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control means is a means for controlling the drive of the imaging means so that imaging is prohibited for a predetermined time after photography.

9. (Previously Presented) The imaging device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control means is a means for controlling the drive of the imaging means so that the imaging means performs photography only when the terminal device gives an instruction to perform photography.

10. Canceled.

11. Canceled.

12. (Currently amended) An imaging system comprising:

a terminal device carried by ~~the a subject and operatively connected to a controller,~~
~~wherein~~ the terminal device ~~includes~~ including an integral terminal communicator to communicate a unique identification code to ~~the a controller~~ associated with one or more cameras when the terminal device is within the operative range of the one or more cameras and also includes a display to display ~~the images~~ obtained by the one or more cameras;

a wireless image communication unit included with each of the one or more cameras for providing wireless data communication to the subject carried terminal device from the image communication unit and for receiving wireless data communication; and

the wireless image communication unit of one of the one or more cameras ~~controller to receive~~ receiving the unique identification code from the terminal device and upon receipt of the unique identification code, the controller associated with each of the one or more cameras driving a respective one of ~~to drive~~ the one or more cameras to ~~record photograph~~ one or more image images of the subject, and to communicate the one or more images of the subject so photographed to the terminal device[[:]],

~~one or more cameras for obtaining images of the subject operatively connected to the controller;~~

wherein ~~images of the subject which are obtained by~~ at least the wireless image communication unit of one of the one or more cameras ~~are transmitted to for display on the terminal device carried by the subject that receives the unique identification code from the~~

terminal device includes communication range restricting means for limiting wireless data transmission and reception of the wireless image communication unit of one of the one or more cameras and wireless data reception by the wireless image communication unit of one of the one or more cameras to be in a direction in common with an imaging direction of the associated one or more cameras and to in a restricted angular range corresponding an angle of view of the associated one or more cameras; and wherein so that said controller associated with each of the one or more cameras drives each of the one or more of said cameras to take a respective image only when said terminal device is within the field of view of the one or more of said cameras.

13. (Currently amended) The imaging system as defined in Claim 12, ~~comprising:~~
wherein a plurality of the imaging devices~~cameras are provided with overlapping having~~
~~imaging ranges which overlap, wherein and the control means controller in each of the cameras~~
~~imaging devices is means for controlling controls the drive of the imaging device communication~~
~~means and the imaging means~~[[,]] plurality of cameras so that when all the wireless image
communication units included with each of the plurality of the imaging devices~~cameras~~ have
become able to communicate data with the terminal device, the ~~imaging means in the plurality of~~
~~the imaging devices take camera to photograph~~ respective photographs images.

14. (Previously Presented) The imaging system as defined in Claim 12, further comprising:
an image server for storing the images obtained by the one or more cameras.

15. (Currently amended) The imaging system as defined in Claim 12, further comprising:
a printer for printing out the image data obtained by the ~~imaging device~~ one or more
cameras.

16. (Previously Presented) The imaging system as defined in Claim 15, wherein the printer only prints out the image data for which an instruction to print has been issued.

17. (Previously Presented) The imaging system as defined in Claim 16, wherein the instruction to print can be issued at the terminal device.

18. (Currently amended) A photographic generation and distribution method, the method being performed with one or more imaging devices each including an imaging communication device to perform communication with a terminal device carried by one or more subjects, the one or more imaging devices being provided at desired locations and each terminal device including a communicator, a unique identification code, and a display; the terminal device transmitting the unique identification code; the method comprising:

a) detecting the terminal device coming within a communication area of the imaging communication device included with each imaging device, the communication area being limited to substantially correspond to an imaging area within the angle of view of the associated imaging device in which an image can be successfully captured by a communication range restricting means for limiting wireless data transmission from the imaging communication device and wireless data reception by the imaging communication device to be in a direction in common with an imaging direction of the associated imaging device and to have a restricted angular range corresponding to the angle of view of the associated imaging device;

b) determining the unique identification code of the terminal device detected in said step a);

c) obtaining an image of the subject user by the imaging device in response to detecting the terminal device in said step a);

d) associating the image of the subject user with the unique identification code of the terminal device determined in said step b);

e) transmitting the obtained image of the subject user to the terminal device; and
said terminal device being capable of displaying the obtained image of the subject user on the terminal device display.

Claims 19-24 Canceled.

25. (Currently amended) An imaging system comprising:

a terminal device carried by ~~the a subject and operatively connected to a controller,~~
~~wherein the terminal device includes including~~ an integral terminal communicator to
communicate a unique identification code to ~~the a controller~~ associated with one or more
cameras when the terminal device is within the operative range of the one or more cameras and
also includes a display to display ~~the images~~ obtained by the one or more cameras;

a wireless image communication unit included with each of the one or more cameras for
providing wireless data communication to the subject carried terminal device from the image
communication unit and for receiving wireless data communication; and

the wireless image communication unit of one of the one or more cameras ~~controller to~~
~~receive~~ receiving the unique identification code from the terminal device and upon receipt of the
unique identification code, the controller associated with each of the one or more cameras
driving a respective one of to drive the one or more cameras to record photograph one or more
image images of the subject, and to communicate the one or more images of the subject so
photographed to the terminal device[[:]],

~~one or more cameras for obtaining images of the subject operatively connected to the~~
~~controller;~~

~~wherein images of the subject which are obtained by at least the wireless image~~
~~communication unit of one of the one or more cameras are transmitted to for display on the~~
~~terminal device carried by the subject that receives the unique identification code from the~~
~~terminal device includes communication range restricting means for limiting wireless data~~
~~transmission and reception of the wireless image communication unit of one of the one or more~~
~~cameras and wireless data reception by the wireless image communication unit of one of the one~~
~~or more cameras to be in a direction in common with an imaging direction of the associated one~~
~~or more cameras and substantially in a restricted angular range corresponding to an angle of view~~
~~of the associated one or more cameras; and wherein so that said controller associated with each~~
~~of the one or more cameras drives each of the one or more of said cameras to take a respective~~
~~image~~ substantially only when said terminal device is within the field of view of the one or more
of said cameras.

26. (New) An imaging system comprising:

a terminal device carried by the subject and operatively connected to a plurality of controllers in each of a plurality of cameras that have imaging ranges that overlap, wherein the terminal device includes an integral terminal communicator to communicate a unique identification code to at least one of the plurality of controllers when the terminal device is within an operative range of the plurality of cameras and also includes a display to display the images obtained by the plurality of cameras;

wherein the at least one of the plurality of controllers that receives the unique identification code from the terminal device responds thereto to enable the controllers in each of the associated cameras; and

wherein the controllers in each of the cameras includes means for controlling an associated communication means of each of the plurality of cameras, so that when all the plurality of the cameras become able to communicate data with the terminal device, imaging means in the plurality of cameras take respective images to be transmitted by the associated communication means to the terminal device to display the respective images on the display of the terminal device.

27. (New) The imaging system as defined in Claim 26, further comprising:

an image server for storing the respective images obtained by the plurality of cameras.

28. (New) The imaging system as defined in Claim 26, further comprising:

a printer for printing out the respective images obtained by the plurality of cameras.

29. (New) The imaging system as defined in Claim 28, wherein the printer only prints out the respective images for which an instruction to print has been issued.

30. (New) The imaging system as defined in Claim 29, wherein the instruction to print can be issued at the terminal device.